To the Port Sanitary Authority
Sandwich.

Annual Report for year 1903.

8th Feby 1904.

Gentlemen

One hundred and seventy six vessels engaged in local trading entered the Haven during the year, these were chiefly plying between this Port and London with general cargoes or to the North for Coal many were also engaged at the Admiralty Harbour Works Dover continually passing in and out of this Port (from the Works at Stonar) to Dover. besides these, 32 vessels arrived from Foreign Ports in Norway, Germany. . from Nantes & Cherbourg the Cargoes were granite, Slate and oilcake, all these vessels were boarded and inspected on arrival & their condition found satisfactory with one exception (the "Jean Bard" from Nantes) which was in a very dirty condition and ordered to be cleansed before proceeding which was done — During the year one case of illness on board ship was reported and the sailor sent to the Union Infirmary.
Two accidental deaths from drowning also occurred in the River during 1903. The weekly Notices of Infectious Deseases (occurring within the Port) have been regularly sent to the Central Authority in London during the year and the general reports from them have also been received

I remain

Your obent Servant.

R. M. Hardisty

M.O.

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To the Urban Sanitary Authority. Sandwich.

Annual Report for Year 1903.

12th Feb: 1904.

Gentlemen.

I beg to present the Annual Report of the Sanitary District of Sandwich for the year ending 31st Dec. 1903. This is a district of 756 acres, having a population of 3170 persons (according to the last Census) and distributed as follows in the four Parishes, St Peter 1088. St Mary 1092 St Clement 956, St Bartholomew 34.

During the year 39 deaths were registered including four which were accidental and the subject of enquiry - deducting these it leaves as a corrected number dying from disease 35 which number yields a death-rate of 11 per thousand — a remarkably low rate, and I believe a record since the establishment of the present Public Health system in Sandwich.

The deaths were distributed in the Parishes as follows. St Peter 13. St Mary 14 St Clement 12. St Bartholomew nil. In point of time the highest mortality was in the third quarter of the year - the first six months being exceptionally healthy.

The following shows the number of deaths during the past five years

1899.	52.
1900.	45.
1901.	47.
1902.	46.
1903.	39.

The number of births during the year was 67 (34 male 33 female) which yield a low birth rate 21.1 per thousand – this also is the lowest in Sandwich for many years.
The annual number of births during past five years is as follows.

1899.	77.
1900.	77.
1901.	84.
1902.	76.
1903.	67.

The following is a Summary of the Registrars Return of Deaths during the year

Diphtheria	3
Diarrhœa.	2
Phthisis.	6
Tubercular Disease.	3
Bronchitis.	2
Pneumonia	3
Premature birth.	2
Heart Disease.	4
Accidental	3
Suicide	1
Senile Degeneration	4
Chronic Intestinal Obstruction	1
Weakness from birth	1
Infantile Convulsions	1
Ovarian Cysts	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	1
Hydrocephalus	1
	39

Of the three accidental deaths - two were caused by drowning and one by a fall from a scaffold -
The suicide was a case of strangulation -
Four deaths were certified in Infants twelve months of age or under - the cases were - two from premature birth - one weakness from birth - one from convulsions - the number of deaths and causes under this section compare very favourably with those given in many preceding years -

Four deaths occurred in those over 80 years of age - the oldest being a female aged 90 years.

Thirty six cases of notofiable Infectious disease were reported - the majority being cases of Diphtheria - 25 being due to that disease.
6 to Scarlet Fever, 3 erysipelas, 2 enteric Fever -
Of this number two cases were fatal (both diphtheria).
By comparison with the year 1902, the Zymotic disease is not so favourable, the total number then was 34, viz 24 diphtheria. 7 Scarlet Fever, erysipelas, but on the other hand five deaths occurred from diphtheria and one from Scarlet Fever in 1902 as compared with two from diphtheria only in 1903.

The diphtheria notifications were received in February and March chiefly - The first case being in Upper Strand Street, and was attributed to a bad stench arising from the cleansing of a cesspool close by, and I think very probably this was the case more especially as it occurred in a quarter of the town where diphtheria

in recent years has been more prevalent.
Two other households (within sixty yards) were later on infected – Badly paved, damp, and ill kept backyards where Poultry, Pigeons, and Rabbits were often kept have been suspicious causes in other cases. – The proximity of a street drain to the front door of a house in Church Street. St Mary was strongly suspected by the parents of the child suffering and the discovery of a cess pool (a portion of which ran under a living room) certainly appeared the probable cause of one fatal case – Another somewhat curious case, which illustrates the necessity of care, appeared in a young woman who was in the habit of — "walking out" with a young man in whose house there was diphtheria. In the other instances no probable cause of infection could be discovered and no insanitary condition present.

As I have before mentioned gentlemen I consider the presence of cess pools in a low lying District such as this to be a serious danger, and would again advise their total abolition if possible, or compulsory notification of their presence – Scarlet Fever appeared in five households, inspection and enquiry traced the origin of two cases in infection communicated in a Hop Garden by a family, some of whose members had recently been in a Fever Hospital suffering from that disease, these children were friendly and constantly playing while hop-picking with other children close by, two of these shortly after their return to Sandwich became ill with Scarlet Fever.

No known cause could be found for the other cases -

The two cases of Enteric Fever appeared in October and December there was no communication between the two families or persons and they lived in different streets - The first one was a man whose work was out of the Town, where he probably contracted the disease, but on enquiry and inspection his cottage was found to be in dangerous proximity to others. moreover one closet only was available for every two families. He was therefore immediately provided with special receptacles and notice was given to the owners of the property that the necessary accommodation should be provided -, which the Inspector reports has now been done, the other case of enteric was in a ~~child~~ and no possible cause could be ~~traced~~ traced

Fewer complaints have been received during the year from householders of Sanitary defects and other nuisances but the proximity of pig 'styes to new dwellings lately erected near the Cemetery has been the subject of enquiry and although perhaps they could not be considered as absolutely injurious (if kept clean) they no doubt will frequently be a source of nuisance and complaint.

One letter was received during the year complaining of the milk supply doubting its purity etc, and I believe it would be a wise proceeding if the Authority would sanction occasionally (by an expert)

its purity being tested, both chemically and Bacteriologically. A still further precaution would be the enforced notification of any serious illness in any Cow connected with ~~the~~ a Dairy.

The condition of the Dairies, Cowsheds and Slaughter Houses during the year has been found satisfactory - Neither has there been any over-crowding or serious illness in the Lodging Houses.

The various Bakehouses have been periodically inspected and reported upon, but with the exception of a few minor defects such as re-painting. Lime washing etc no fault was to be found.

The Public Water Supply has proved to be very satisfactory and has continued to remain good and sufficient notwithstanding an increased demand.

During the past year the cleansing of some of the main drains by regular and more frequent flushing through the sluices has decidedly proved beneficial.

As regards an Isolation Hospital a definite arrangement with the Rural Authorities has now been arrived at, by which our Urban cases will be received when necessary, provided the accomodation is not required for Rural cases, it remains to be seen if this arrangement will meet the needs of our Urban requirements

In conclusion Gentlemen while congratulating you upon the state of the Public Health during the year 1903, satisfactory in every way with the exception of the cases of Diphtheria — not perhaps surprising when one considers the lack, deficient, or in efficient state of the drainage in some quarters of the Town, I would urge you again to hasten consideration of the necessary and important means which you have in your hands of still further permanently improving the Hygienic condition of the Town by providing it with a complete and efficient system of drainage.

I remain Gentlemen.

Your Obedient Servant.

John McThurlson

M. O. H.